



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST  
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT  
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

**2012**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
DOG CREEK SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

**CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT**

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Jeff Siddoway	6/16 to 9/20	1200 ewes/lambs

All sheep must be your own livestock and branded with the brand **JS** as displayed in your Term Grazing permit.

**GRAZING SCHEDULE**

Truck the sheep to Dog Creek to unload. Begin grazing the allotment in the following order:

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1st	Dog Creek
Graze 2nd	Red Pass
Graze 3rd	Wolf Basin
Graze 4 <sup>th</sup>	Dry Wolf
Graze 5 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Valley Allotment
<b>REST</b>	<b>Cabin Creek and Keyser Creek</b>

After grazing Dry Wolf Unit trail the sheep down South Indian to the Grand Valley Allotment on Alpine Mud Flats. Approximately 3 days will be allowed for this trail time. Portable corrals may be erected on Grand Valley Allotment for the sheep to be trucked from the National Forest.

**ALL TRAIL TIME MUST OCCUR WITHIN YOU PERMITTED SEASON.**

## **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

During the 2011 grazing season wolf depredation was a problem on the allotment. There is still a healthy wolf population in the area. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service there is one wolf that is collared in the area. During the time your sheep were being preyed on by wolves the sheep were moved onto the rest unit. If problems occur and you need to vary from these instructions contact the district range manager prior to making changes.

Utilization on the allotment was within proper use standards during the 2011 season on the Cabin Creek and Dog Creek Units. The Wolf Creek Units were not inspected in 2011.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has camping restrictions in the Snake River Canyon between Alpine and Hoback Junction. The only areas open to overnight camping are in the designated camp grounds. We have in the past negotiated with the Jackson Ranger District in the past to authorize you to camp at the mouth of Dog Creek and Cabin Creek for up to four days when the sheep first arrive at the forest allotment in June.

## **PROPER USE CRITERIA**

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

### **Upland Forage Utilization**

<u>Vegetation Type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

### **Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height**

- A. The 30% utilization levels of current year's growth for key woody plant species.
- B. A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

## **Herdin**

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to

water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to shade up along the streams. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

#### Salting

No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land.

#### Camps

Herder camps should be located at least 50 feet from the trails if possible. Low impact camping techniques will be used: such as picketing or highlining any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time, using existing fire rings or removing sod from a new fire ring and replacing it before you leave, caching tent poles cut from native trees to use another year. Picket lines will be of a length so not to allow pack and saddle stock to cross roads or trails. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash from your sheep camps including any trash that is left from previous years or items left by other campers. The Bridger-Teton National Forest has implemented a special order for food storage and sanitation that must be followed while on the Dog Creek Allotment. The purpose of the order is to minimize adverse interactions between bears and humans. A copy of the order is included in your folder.

#### Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

#### Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

### **COORDINATION & COOPERATION**

#### Motorized Access

Adhere to the travel plans for the Palisades Ranger District and Bridger Teton National Forest while managing your sheep on the allotment.

#### Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Spending a little time treating an infestation that consists only of a few plants may prevent larger infestations from damaging your range in the future. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

#### Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS). Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

### Grizzly Bear Management

The grizzly bear is listed under the Endangered Species Act. Any grizzly bear problems will be reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service or Wildlife Services as well as the Palisades Ranger District.

Grizzly Bears may not be harmed except when necessary for human safety. They may not be harmed in defense of property.

### Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

## **INFORMATION**

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that requires a change to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will direct management for this allotment for the 2012 grazing season.

/s/ J C Siddoway

Permittee

4/25/2012

Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen

ROBBERT MICKELSEN

District Ranger

4/30/2012

Date